

LONDON AS IT WAS, AND AS IT  
IS IN 1844.

(Continued from p. 503.)

The houses in Bedford-street, King-street, and Henrietta-street, were then chiefly occupied by mercers, lacemen, drapers, &c., this being the extent of their peregrinations without the walls.

St. Mary's Church, in the Strand, was consecrated in January, 1723. An old church in that parish is mentioned in the year 1222, when it was called St. Mary's and the Innocents of the Strand. It was then situated on the site now occupied by the east end of Somerset House, for erecting which palace it was taken down in 1549, by order of Edward, the proud Duke of Somerset, to the great scandal of the times. The parishioners, deprived of their place of worship, joined themselves to the Church of St. Clement Danes, and afterwards to that of St. John Baptist, in the Savoy, where they continued till the year 1723. The new church, called St. Mary-le-Strand, was the first finished of any of the fifty new churches. Its living is a rectory in the gift of the king. It is a superb, though not an extensive edifice, massive without the appearance of being heavy, and formed to stand for ages. Its position is commanding, and although somewhat in the way of public business, we can hardly wish it removed to a more quiet and unobtrusive spot. At the entrance on the west end, is an ascent by a semi-circular flight of steps, which lead to a semi-circular portico of Ionic columns covered with a dome, crowned with a vase. The columns are continued along the body of the church, with pilasters of the same order at the corners, and in the intercolumns are niches handsomely ornamented. Over the dome is a pediment supported by Corinthian columns, which order is continued round the body of the structure over the Ionic order beneath; between the lateral Corinthian columns are windows placed over the niches. These columns are supported by pedestals, and have pilasters between them bearing arches, and over the windows are angular and circular pediments alternating. A balustrade is carried round the summit of the body, supporting vases. Formerly, there was a large watch-house placed before the entrance. On the spot where this church is built, there formerly stood a very lofty may-pole, which, on public occasions, used to be decorated with flags, streamers, and garlands of flowers.

Hungerford Market, another improvement to the metropolis, is built on the ground where formerly stood the house and garden of Sir Edward Hungerford; he converted it into buildings, having a street into the Strand, and leading to the market, over the market-house was the charity school of St. Martin's parish. It was originally intended as a fruit and flower market, but Covent Garden having the start of it, and being in a better situation for business, Hungerford Market was neglected. As a starting place for steam-vessels, much company is drawn thereto, and much more may be expected when the suspension-bridge is completed and open to the public.

Between St. Martin's parish, and St. Margaret's, Westminster, there was large commoning (for the benefit of those parishes), of lands laid open according to ancient custom from Lammas-day; which were, in Queen Elizabeth's time, inclosed with gates and hedges, by which the inhabitants were deprived of that benefit. Upon this, complaint was made to Lord Burghley, High Steward of Westminster, who ordered an inquest to be empaneled; the parishioners thinking this an acknowledgment of their right, employed persons on the ensuing Lammas-day with pick-axes and other

instruments to pull down the fences, and break open the gates. This assumed right extended over 688 acres, viz., Ebury Farm 430 acres, the Neat 108 acres, St. James's Farm 100 acres, John Lazarus of Jerusalem 50 acres.

In pursuing our train of observation on London in olden times and as it is in the present day, we now enter the limits of the city; and, previous to particularizing objects, it will be as well to give a brief history, as collected from Stow and other ancient writers. Geoffrey of Monmouth, the Welsh historian (?) reports that *Brute* lineally descended from the demi-god *Eneas*, the son of *Venus*, daughter of *Jupiter*, 'about *anno mundi* 2855, and 1108 *u.c.*, built a city near the Thames, and named it *TROYNVAN*, or *TRANOVAN*. This tradition was formerly of such credit, as to be preserved in an ancient tract in the archives of the city, transcribed into the *Liber Albus*, and long before that by *Horn*, in his old book of laws and customs, called *Liber Horn*.

King *Lud*, about 1060 years after, not only repaired this city, but also increased the same with fair buildings, towers, and walls, terming it *Caire-Lud* or *Lud's Town*, and the strong gate which he built in the west part of the city he named *Ludgate*; from this term the word London is said to have originated, by corruption; but others assert that it was anciently called *Llongdin*, a British word answering to the Saxon word *Shipton*, that is, a town of ships. It is certain that long before the invasion of the Romans London was in good repute, notwithstanding its early history being involved in much obscurity. According to *Cæsar's "Commentaries"* *Casibelaun's* town was 20 miles west from London. *Tacitus* tells us that *Londonium* 62 A.C. was then most famous for the great multitude of merchants, provision, and intercourse, at which time it was pillaged and spoiled by the Romans. It is soon after this that London was walled with stone, and *Julius Agricola*, by introducing the arts of industry and civilised life from Rome, so engaged the affections of the Britons, as to win them to build houses for themselves, temples, and courts of justice, and to clothe themselves after the fashion of their conqueror.

The city of London is disposed on a small hill, having an easy ascent from the south, and its position is not only the most advantageous that could possibly be chosen for the seat of a mighty city, but also the most salubrious, being open to the bracing winds of the north, and having a noble river running through the midst of it, which, administering to its wealth and greatness on the one hand, carries off all impurities, and brings it the favourable and healthy breezes of the ocean. Formerly, it was thought that wood and charcoal only could be used with due regard to the health of the inhabitants; and in the reign of Edward I. the inhabitants, on the representations of the prelates and nobles, were by proclamation prohibited from burning sea-coal; which being disobeyed by many for their private emolument, stringent laws were enacted, and for the second offence, the authorities punished the offenders by demolishing their furnaces, kilns, &c. Great care has at all times been observed to preserve the purity of the atmosphere, provision being made against all annoying smells; and in the reign of Edward III. no butcher was allowed to slaughter his cattle nearer the city than Stratford or Knightsbridge.

In the time of Stow, London measured, from Limehouse to the end of Tothill-street, Westminster, about 7½ miles; and from the further end of Blackman-street, in Southwark, to the end of St. Leonards, Shoreditch, 2½ miles; upon a medium, he says London is 7 miles long and 1½ miles broad, making an area of 9 square miles. In 1686 its population was computed at 100,000 souls. In 1702 the tax 1 *Regin.* Anne amounted to 1,979,931*l.*, and the quota of this tax set upon London and Westminster was 198,843*l.*, besides on Middlesex, in all 307,755*l.*, nearly one-fourth of the whole tax upon the kingdom; this will give some idea of its populousness and wealth. In 1682 there were 84,000 tenanted houses. It was computed at that period that the city doubled its population in forty years, and that by this mode of calculation the number of inhabitants in 1840 would be 5,800,000; that the inhabitants of all England would be but inconsiderably

more, viz. 10,917,389 in number; wherefore the growth of the city must stop before the year 1840, and be at its maximum in 1800, when the number of its inhabitants would be 5,000,359. In 1682, London was seven times larger than in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

William of Malmesbury tells us that about the year of Christ 394 the Londoners shut up their gates and defended *Ethelred*, their king within their walls against the Danes. Also, that *Edmund Ironside*, reigning over the West Saxons, Conute bringing his navy into the west part of the bridge by a trench which he had caused to be cut, cast a trench about the city, and then attempted to win it by assault; but the citizens repulsed him, and drove him from the walls. Also, in the year 1052, Earl Godwin with his navy sailed up by the south end of the bridge, along the southern side of the river, and so assailed the walls. And William Fitz-Stephen, writing in the reign of king Henry II. of the walls of the city, observes, "The wall is high and great, well-towered on the north side, with due distances between the towers; on the south side also the city was walled and towered, but the fish-abounding river of Thames, with his ebbing and flowing, hath long since subverted them."

In the reign of Henry II. the city was bounded by a high wall, furnished with turrets, and seven double gates, and had in the east part a tower palatine, and in the west two castles well fortified. Further westward, about two miles on the banks of the river, was the royal palace of Westminster, "an incomparable structure guarded by a wall and bulwarks." Between this and the city was a continued suburb, mingled with large and beautiful gardens and orchards, belonging to the citizens, who were themselves everywhere known and respected above all others for their civil demeanour, their gaudy apparel, their well-furnished tables, and their discourses. The number of conventual churches in the city and suburbs was 13, besides 126 lesser parochial ones. On the north side were open meadows and pasture lands, and beyond was a forest, in the woody coverts of which lurked deer, wild boars, and fierce wild bulls. The handicraftsmen, the vendors of wares, and the labourers for hire, were every morning to be found at their distinct and appropriate places, as is still common in the bazars of the East; and on the river's bank was a public cookery and eating-place belonging to the city, where "whatsoever multitude," and howsoever daintily inclined, might be supplied with proper fare. Within one of the gates also, in a certain plain field (Smithfield) on every Friday, unless it happened to be a solemn festival, was a great market for horses, whither early barons, knights, and citizens repaired to see and purchase.

The houses in Edward the First's time were built of wood, and the city was intersected with streams, which flowed through some of the principal streets. Thus the river Wells rises north-west of the city, and falling into Fleet ditch at the bottom of Holborn-hill; this brook had several mills on it, and was thence called Turnmill-brook; the Oldbourne, the Fleet, which had its course through Fleet-street, Walbrook, and Langbourne-brook.

In 1410 stocks market was erected where the Mansion House now stands.

In the reign of Henry V. the city was first lighted at night by lanterns slung on ropes. Leadenhall-market was then a granary or corn-market, it was afterwards used as a wool-market, subsequently converted into an armoury.

The whole circumference of the city walls was 16,095 feet, or 3 miles and 30 poles, the superficial extent being estimated at 380 acres. In the reign of Richard I. the citizens began to encompass and strengthen their walls by a ditch. In several succeeding reigns this ditch was cleansed out at the expense of the inhabitants of London. Previous to the reign of Elizabeth, this ditch abounded with excellent fish; Fleet ditch is the only part now remaining of the town ditch, and that is dwindled down into a common sewer.

The city of London was anciently watered by the river Thames on the south, the river of the Wells on the west, by Walbrook running through the midst of the city, Langbourn running within the city through Langbourn ward. In the west suburbs was also another stream called Oldbarn, which fell into the river of Wells. There were also three